



50th Anniversary

1912 - 1962

Please return to
~~United Church~~

Wauwanesa

Room 108

Mary Jane Mc Donald C. P. Lodge

Special Thanks to Mrs. Charles J. Scott
for Compiling This Anniversary Booklet.

\$45
JA
Score

OUR CHURCH

50th Anniversary

1912 - 1962

UNITED CHURCH

Wawanesa

October 28 — 1962



Interior of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church taken about 1905.



Present Wawanesa United Church

Introduction

The late Nellie L. McClung, well known writer and lecturer, who came to this district with her parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. John Mooney at the age of seven in the year 1880, has this to say regarding the church of those early years.

"I often think of the gamble our family and other families took when they left the security of Grey County, Ontario with its church, and school and friendly neighbors, and took their westward way to the wide reaches of an unknown country. What would have been our fate had no one cared for our spiritual and mental welfare! It was not the financial interests of the country who cared about us. The machine companies were interested in us as customers only. They did not hesitate to sue the settler if he could not make his payments on their tariff protected machines. The higher institutions of learning, the universities, had no thought for us. Why should they? They had their own classes. Extension courses or correspondence courses had not been considered.

But the Church sent us missionaries to instruct us, to visit us in our homes, to cheer and encourage us; and they sent us books—books that warmed our hearts and brought us pictures of far places, that opened golden doors and created for us a sense of fellowship with the wide world, of which we had seen so little.

It comforts me now to remember the part the churches have played in making of this country. How they have held together the little communities with their Christmas concerts, Sunday-School picnics and the weekly services, rain or shine.

No doubt they have looked insignificant to some "superior" people. They could see only little groups of people meeting in bare unattractive buildings to read words written hundreds of years ago, teaching children the deathless stories of the Bible and New Testament and singing "Like A Mighty Army Moves," the "Church of God" and other wonderful old hymns, while the minister's wife or some one else accompanied on a wheezy organ."

So today on our 50th anniversary as we recall the history of our Church, let us pay loving and respectful tribute to those men and women who have given so freely of their time and talents; who have indeed given a large part of their lives to the spiritual needs of their fellow men, in service to our Church.

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

Unfortunately the early records of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church are almost non-existent. However we do know that their services were first held in the new Methodist Church in Wawanesa in 1890.

In 1891 three trustees were appointed to secure a site and to borrow money to build a church. These three trustees were Alexander Naismith, James Downie and J. J. Story.

They encountered difficulty in borrowing the money but finally a loan was obtained from "Confederation Life Association". We understand that at least one of these men surrendered his life insurance policy as security. The church was built, we believe, at a cost of less than \$1000.00. This is still the main auditorium of our Wawanesa United Church and has certainly withstood the rigors of the years well. It has been kept well-painted and new shingles were put on in 1960. It was an ambitious and imaginative building for those early days. Pictures of the interior at that time show a graceful and attractive edifice. The interior was completely re-decorated and re-styled in 1954.

The first minister was the Rev. Alex Currie. He was a fine speaker, and much beloved by his congregation. He suffered a great grief in his second year of service. A baby boy born on July 15th died on July 27th and a month later his wife passed away at the age of thirty-two. He and his small daughter Mary remained in Wawanesa until 1899 when he left to assume another charge. He died the following year and his body was returned to Wawanesa for burial in the family plot. The Woman's Association (now the U.C.W.) assumes responsibility for the care of the Currie plot.

Mrs. A. Neale of Brandon, formerly Jessie Chambers, who lived in Wawanesa in Mr. Currie's time tells how on the day of Mr. Currie's funeral she and another cousin, Jessie Parke, now living in Vancouver, requested permission to attend the service. Their parents refused to allow them to go, and they were sent to school. However they decided they simply had to go to this service for the beloved Mr. Currie and dared to skip school, hoping that in the packed church they would be unobserved. All might have been well but their grief became uncontrollable and audible. They were found and ushered out by their embarrassed parents and so mopping their tear stains, and stifling their sobs the little six year olds took their sad way back to school.

The first marriage performed in the Presbyterian Church was that of Nellie Letitia Mooney, of Wawanesa and Robert Wesley McClung of Manitou. This ceremony was at 7:30 in the morning of August 1895, as the train left early. It is hard to imagine the bridal party driving with horses through a wet windy August morning and looking its best but Mrs. E. L. McDonald remembers that the bride and her attendant looked charming with pert "bustle bows on their gowns". These young people were both Methodists, the groom being the son of a Methodist minister, but the larger church had been kindly loaned to accommodate the large number of friends. Organist was Miss Hopkins.

Weddings at this early hour were quite a common occurrence and Mrs. McDonald tells us that she, herself had an early wedding. She and her husband, the late Mr. E. L. McDonald were married in 1910 by Rev. W. F. C. Leech.

Two early marriages performed by Rev. Alex Currie were those of Miss Jane Isabella Fortune to Mr. Forest David Cullen, December 3, 1896, and of Miss Barbara Wilkie to Mr. John Thomas Mooney, March 23, 1897.

Members of the Cullen family still live in Treesbank and Miss Jessie Cullen of our local hospital staff is a daughter.

The late Mr. and Mrs. John Mooney were my parents, and my brother Harry, their son, still lives on the old homestead.

The first organ in St. Andrews Church was donated by Mr. John McKenzie. Mr. McKenzie was a loyal supporter of the Presbyterian church and he, his wife and family were greatly missed when they moved to the west coast. The Henderson family were also a big loss to this Church when they also moved to Vancouver 28 years ago.

Other names known to have belonged to this congregation are J. J. Story, Wm. T. Story, Alfred Eason, T. McKenzie, Robt. Wallace, J. Nethercut, J. Burgess, F. Simms, Wm. Gorrie, Barclay Brothers, G. Ross, Downies, D. H. Chambers, T. Stevenson, A. Brooks, H. C. Martin, T. Wilkie, J. B. Tyndall, Robt. Park, Mrs. Lindsay, Miss Maude Lindsay, Daymonds, C. D. Kerrs, D. A. McVicar, F. Batty, B. Moore and Wm. Johnston.

Miss Bertha Eason recalls that Mrs. D. A. McVicar was a talented and enthusiastic worker in the choir. She remembers her directing an Easter Cantata entitled "From Cross to Crown". The Easter lilies were made, hundreds of them at the Eason home and Miss Eason says the production in every way was beautiful, the music truly lovely, a masterly effort. Mr. McVicar was the manager of the bank.

The Union Church

The matter of the union of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches was a most delicate one, and we understand that it was in few cases accomplished without difficulty.

In Wawanesa we were no exception. After coming together in Union, certain disagreements developed and dissension caused the churches to separate after a short time. The Methodists, with few exceptions, returned to their own church and Mr. Price was their minister for some two years.

However as far as we can ascertain, in 1916 the differences were resolved to the satisfaction of the majority of both congregations. In 1917 their Union was complete when the Methodist church was moved and annexed to the Presbyterian church, filling a great need for the expanding Sunday School and providing a room for meetings, study groups etc.

Members of the official board at this time were: W. S. Peters, A. Eason, W. T. Story, W. T. Britton, John McKenzie, H. C. Martin, A. Brook, J. L. Morton and R. B. Fawcett. Mr. A. Eason was chairman. In 1925 the polity of the United Church of Canada was adopted.

In 1920 Mr. Dixon and his daughter held evangelistic services in May.

In 1921 we note that Mr. F. W. Lawrence tendered his resignation as Secretary-Treasurer after serving in this office for some years. His wife, the former Alice Leachman, was elected to the office and held this office until her death in 1935. The late Mrs. Lawrence's minutes are a pleasure to read, carefully and concisely kept, properly worded and written in a clear legible hand.

Mr. E. Eason was secretary for a number of years also, and his minutes are also admirably done. Mr. Eason served his church in almost every capacity as a layman.

In 1923 we read that the church in conjunction with the Sunday School, sponsored a farewell social and presentation for Miss Gladys Story, who was leaving for China as a medical missionary. In 1925 two members of the school board, Mr. G. H. Stephens and Mr. J. G. Fraser, met with the church board and requested permission to use the annex and the rooms at the Parsonage, until the school, which was being remodelled, was ready. Later in 1925 the Parsonage was sold. In 1925 along with the rest of Canadian Union Churches we became the United Church of Wawanesa.

In 1927 the church was raised and a full basement added. In other reports, by the different officers of the church, continued progress and improvement of the church and its services will be seen.

In October, 1938, Miss Madge Mooney of Winnipeg was guest speaker at the evening service and gave an interesting and informative account of her experience as an exchange teacher in the cities of Auckland and Wellington, New Zealand.

The basement with the kitchen and its improved facilities, is a source of great satisfaction to the ladies of the church. With their fine supply of attractive china and stainless cutlery, they are equipped for catering very well indeed.

We would like to express our own personal satisfaction in the music our church dispenses.

The Senior Choir is indeed a great institution in our church. We owe them our sincere gratitude for their faithful and never-failing participation in church services, funerals etc. At our rally this fall a ladies' quartet sang "Come, Holy Spirit". The quartet members were: Mrs. S. Hembroff, Mrs. J. Cory, Mrs. R. Blain and Mrs. F. Markowsky, and when the chairman commented she simply said "Angelic" and it was.

Our organist and Senior Choir leader, Mrs. C. E. Lawrence, is to be highly commended. Five of our Senior Choir members, Mrs. H. J. McKibbin, Miss Rene Hampton, Mr. and Mrs. R. Blain and Mrs. C. Gorrie, have a total of some 175 years of service. They are indeed a source of strength in this department of our church. To see some thirty Junior Choir members file in on Sunday morning is a moving sight and their fresh young voices are a joy to all of us.

I would like to quote from a letter received from Mrs. Sherwood Lett, the former Evelyn Story, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Story. "My thoughts have been wandering back even further than 1912. As some of the old timers

may recall, our father erected the first building in Wawanesa in the summer of 1889 — a general store on the lot beside the present "Story Block". The first Sunday the building was completed, a visiting Methodist minister conducted a service there, the first Divine service on the townsite of Wawanesa. Incidentally, it was a United service, although our parents and uncle William were Presbyterians, everyone worshipped together, with the Methodist and Presbyterian ministers made welcome, whenever they could get to town. Incidentally, my eldest brother Roland, the first baby born in the town, April 17th, 1890, was christened by a Methodist minister."

Over the years we have lost valuable church workers by removal from town and district. These include Mr. and Mrs. Geo. H. Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Stevenson, Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Holden, the late Dr. C. M. and Mrs. Vanstone, Mr. and Mrs. D. McPhail, Mrs. E. L. McDonald and Mary Jane, Mr. and Mrs. F. Batty, and Mr. and Mrs. James Milloy, Mr. and Mrs. J. McKenzie, Mrs. H. Downie and Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Hector, but we have also gained some invaluable church workers too. The Mr. and Mrs. John Carrothers when they moved to town from the farm, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Naismith, Mr. S. A. Reid and the late Mrs. Reid, the late Mr. A. J. Elliott and Mrs. Elliott, Mr. F. B. McArthur and his late wife. Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Harrison whom we have missed since they have moved to Brandon, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Stevenson, who have recently moved to Winnipeg, to name only a few of the older ones.

We have been fortunate too in young people coming into our church and are happy they are willing to share the responsibilities.

What I remember:

I remember Mr. John W. Carrothers as a man typical of a church gentleman. I recall how cheerful and helpful he was and even when he became quite frail how he hurried to assist in opening the annex doors, which have always seemed a little stubborn. I remember Mr. J. J. Story as Sunday School Superintendent and how, when the little folks became noisy, he would hold up both hands for silence, saying, "Let's sing our favorite hymn". We all knew what it was, No. 169 in the old Canadian Hymnal. "You May Help a Load To Lighten", but we didn't need to look it up. I remember Mr. A. J. Elliott so well; how he gave us quiet, wise and sound advice at annual meetings. Mr. Elliott's opinions were received with great respect and when he spoke everyone present listened.

I remember Mr. W. T. Story, tall dignified and kindly; and Mr. and Mrs. Tyndall walking down the hill to church. Mr. Tyndall, in spite of a severe handicap, always cheerful and friendly. I knew the Tyndalls well, having boarded there during my first year at high school. They had a wonderful atmosphere in their home, truly Christian people.

And years ago the Henderson family, regular attendants from south of town drove to church in a democrat, and Mr. and Mrs. Raison, also Mr. Wm. Raison. By the way Mrs. Raison sang in the Methodist Choir at one time.

The Eason twins, Bertie and Josie in the choir. There were four of the Eason girls who sang in the Presbyterian choir.

In the Woman's Association, these women with whom it was a pleasure to work, the late Mrs. McArthur, Mrs. Clarence Orr now of Calgary, Miss

Martha McNeish, Mrs. Vanstone, Mrs. R. Wallace, Mrs. McGregor, Mrs. David Blain, Miss Margaret McGregor, Mrs. Clint Rutledge and Mrs. Clifford Rutledge, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Hanson, Mrs. McPhail, Miss Alice Payne, the late Mrs. P. Couling, the late Mrs. C. R. Rogers, the late Mrs. Beveridge the late Mrs. M. Milloy, my aunt, Mrs. George Mooney and my dear mother, Mrs. John T. Mooney.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Leachman, Mrs. Leachman superintendent of the Cradle Roll for many years, never forgetting the new little folks on their first birthday. The late Mr. Walter Leachman served our church in many offices over the years.

I remember Mrs. Naismith and Miss McNeish behind the sewing table at many of our bazaars. The late Mr. and Mrs. Herman Rogers, as devoted church members; their son Harvey, following in his fathers' footsteps is now the senior member of the Session in the terms of service.

The late Mr. and Mrs. Herman Rogers, as devoted church members. Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Rutledge, regularly at church. Mr. Rutledge with his hand cupping his ear to hear; anxious to hear every word. He must have been an inspiration to the minister. Mr. John Burgess also at church in the same place each Sunday. I remember hearing that the "pipe" organ, which to me as a child was a wondrous and beautiful instrument, was shipped from the east in a carload of apples. Mr. John McKenzie, who donated the first organ, was in the habit of shipping in apples by the carload and negotiated the purchase of this organ and arranged its transportation.

I particularly remember the Junior Choir when Bernie Ingram was the leader, as it was then our late beloved daughter Jeanie was a member. I shall never forget the lovely costumes which Bernie designed for the many concerts, operettas etc., and which we the mothers made; and the gay, wholesome happy times the girls had together.

We remember Mr. Hiram McKibbin who has filled many offices in the church and due to failing health is presently a hospital patient, Mr. Russell Spencer, also a former board member, due to ill health is not active at present, and the following deceased members of the congregation, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Peters, Mr. and Mrs. George H. Stephens, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Rogers, Mrs. J. Lea, Mr. W. J. Johnston, Mr. J. G. Fraser, Mr. Richard Courtice, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Britton and their daughter Florence, (the late Mrs. J. Cram), Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Elliott, Mr. Leonard Boneham, and Mr. John Carruthers — Mrs. Carruthers is now living in Edmonton, and many others may be inadvertently missed and if so our sincere apologies.

And none of us will ever forget Mrs. Batty and the class of beginners, her infinite patience and kindness, and the sweet little voices of her class on Rally Day, Christmas and many other occasions.

I would like to say that it has been a privilege to write the history of the United Church of Wawanesa. I trust it will not be too disappointing. I am certain some significant facts and many important names have been missed and would ask your kind indulgence for this.

I acknowledge with thanks, the various fine reports from church officers and letters, information, and pictures from many friends including:

Mrs. Sherwood Lett, Vancouver; Miss Lena Henderson, Vancouver; Mrs. E. Hazel Elliott, Portage la Prairie; Mrs. Colin H. Burnell, Winnipeg; Mrs. E. L. McDonald, Winnipeg; Mrs. F. Batty, Winnipeg; Mrs. R. A. McLachlin (nee Millie Ferris) Flin Flon; Mrs. J. L. Morton, Winnipeg, Miss Myrtle McKenzie, Vancouver, and especially Miss Bertha Eason who has been an invaluable help.

RUTH M. SCOTT
(MRS CHARLES J. SCOTT.)

Early History

The records of Church history in our district date back to the year 1880, when at the Conference of the Methodist Church held at Belleville, Ontario, Rev. Thomas Hall was appointed to the mission field of Grand Valley. This was roughly the area between a point east and slightly north of Brandon, and Millford. Grand Valley was the original townsite but after a disastrous flood, the town was moved to the higher location, Brandon.

An old circuit minute book says "according to appointment he with his family settled in the very young village of Millford and opened up the mission field which extended over nine townships and included five large settlements."

The ministers salary was \$300. yearly, for board \$300., house rent \$120., horse feed \$80., travelling expenses \$15., children's fund \$18.20 and incidentals \$4.

Services were held in the first year at Millford, Souris City, Brandon Hills, and Oak Creek.

A Church was built at Millford in 1882, by volunteer labor, though the expense of the material was met by the Missionary Society of the Methodist Church of Canada. This was the first church in the district and quoting the late Nellie L. McClung "On a bright September afternoon when every person within a circle of ten miles came and the field around the church was black with wagons, ox teams and a few horses, the Church was dedicated 'to the services of God and humanity.'"

"The first couple married in the Church were Roman Catholics, and Mr. Hall used the sign of the Cross at their request in the ceremony. This led to some criticism, but my father defended Mr. Hall, and said as Christian people we should never forget that the Cross was the sacred symbol of our faith. 'Many a time,' he said, 'when I was logging on the Ottawa and our raft was nearing the rapids, I crossed myself with the Catholic lads. It helped me to remember that God was with us even in the high water.'"

The first funeral in the church was that of the minister's own little boy, his only son, a handsome little lad with golden curls; who died in the spring of '83 when the wild crocuses were spreading their blue carpet over the prairie."

Mr. Hall was much loved by everyone and by all accounts was a very able man. He must have been a very busy one too and often when the

roads were impassable for a vehicle he walked his circuit and still seems to have found time for visits to his flock, often seeming to have an almost clairvoyant sense of knowing when someone in a household was sick and needing him. He was a skilled nurse as well and often served in this capacity.

The minutes of the first quarterly board meeting held on the Grand Valley Mission are dated May 9, 1881. The meeting was held at the home of Mr. T. Harrison. Members present were Jos. Elliott, M. Carrothers, Davis and R. B. Fawcett. Rev. Hall presided.

Mr. R. B. Fawcett was appointed to the office of recording steward, which office he held until he was appointed to the board of trustees at Wawanesa to build the Methodist Church.

Mr. Fawcett served on a church board continuously from 1880 until 1920 when he left our district to move to Saskatchewan. He was also superintendent of the Union Sunday School and is kindly remembered by many of us.

In 1885 the mission field had enlarged to ten appointments namely Souris City, Millford, Brandon Hills, Oak Creek, Stockton, Langvale, Glen Souris, Souris Mouth, Dicksons and Greenfield. As settlers came in and the population increased the mission was of necessity divided. We also find missions established at Sourisburg, Chesley, Minnewawa, Tiger Hills and Hilton. Some points were abandoned in favor of others. As the writing in the minute book is quite faded and indistinct it is hard to follow the progress of the missions at this point.

In February 1890, we read that a trustee board was formed for Wawanesa; Eph Rogers, Wallace Harry, Charles Leachman and R. B. Fawcett.

The Wawanesa Methodist Church

In the minutes of the Methodist Church we read that a meeting was held in Wawanesa in February, 1890, "it being thought advisable to organize a Trustee Board for the purpose of erecting a church at Wawanesa." The following board of trustees were nominated by the circuit minister; Rev. W. C. Bunt, Thomas E. Banting, R. B. Fawcett, Charles Leachman, Wallis Harry and Eph Rogers.

It was decided to procure a site and build a church 20x28, which would serve as a vestry and school room in the future.

A Mr. Graham kindly donated a site for the building "Lot 21, Block 3 in the Village of Wawanesa."

After several attempts to borrow the money, (500 dollars) which they had decided was the amount required, they finally were successful in negotiating a loan from the Imperial Bank on a note for nine months, by renewing every three months.

They certainly budgeted carefully as the accounts given for the building are itemized and the total, \$494.70!

In May the building was ready for occupancy and regular services commenced. The minister was Rev. T. B. Wilson.

We read also that the Presbyterians were granted the use of the church for \$1.00 per Sabbath service.

Later the Anglicans were also privileged to use the church for the same fee.

So it appears that relations between the different churches in Wawanesa were co-operative and cordial at that time and have so remained through the years.

The official opening of the Methodist Church was held on June 1st, 1890, and the minutes of a later meeting tell us that at a public meeting "the ladies and friends heartily responding" and agreeing to hold a Harvest Home Festival on Thanksgiving Day, November 6th, at which a subscription list was started to help pay for the church. Proceeds from the dinner amounted to \$53.00.

An organ was also purchased the same year. The matter of a shed to shelter teams was left in abeyance owing to an unusually mild winter, but the shed was built in 1891.

In 1897 the church was enlarged and a porch added, also a furnace was installed. We note that the minister's salary at this time was \$1,000.00 per year.

In a letter from Mrs. Newton Elliott, the former Hazel Brook, received on October 7th, the following interesting news of the Methodist Church, was given. "Just this very day I had lunch with Myrtle Cann Dickey of Vancouver who came to Wawanesa in July, 1903. We had come in March of the same year. Rev. Cann and family came from Bermuda, I believe, and Mrs. Hugh Rutledge who was president of the Ladies' Aid, met them at the train and brought them to our house, where they stayed until the parsonage was ready. I used to baby sit with Myrtle and Lois while their parents drove to service at Chesley.

"Mrs. Foster was the organist at our church and Mrs. Neades I believe. The choir had Clint and Cliff Rutledge, their sister Edna, Orby and Elfie Banting, Gertrude Foster, Molly Flaws, Oliver Elliott, Lottie Bishop, the Greens, Dick, George and Lottie, Stanley Sweeney and others.

"The highlight of our lives those days was the Young People's Society and we did have a wonderful time, especially the social evenings at Charlie Leachman's or Hugh Rutledge's. But we had our study periods too and such discussions! Everyone took part and no one sat back. It involved all the young people. There was no other attraction except the rink!"

It is always a problem to know whether names should be mentioned in a history but I find certain names very often in the records and feel they should be noted: T. Banting, R. B. Fawcett, Charles Leachman, J. C. Robinson, Thos. Elliott, Hugh Rutledge, C. R. Rogers, Jos. Green and W. Harry, J. Sweeney, W. T. Britton, C. M. Vanstone, Tilton Stephens, Courtice, Mooney, W. S. Peters, Raison and Mayhew and many others too.

The Methodist Church had at this time some forty names on their subscription list and were an active and progressive congregation.

Wawanesa United Church 50th Anniversary

October 1912-1962 — Report Of Session

As the proceedings and minutes of meeting of Session from 1912 to 1929 are missing this report will deal principally with period January 1929 to date.

I propose giving you the names of those men and women who have comprised the Session over the years, and as all ministers in charge of the circuit are members of Session, I will name them now, viz:

When union came into force in 1912 Rev. Coleman was the Methodist minister and Rev. G. W. Langille the Presbyterian.

They were followed from 1913 to 1921 by Rev. D. R. Clare, Robert Dewar, Irwin, Elsey and Parsons, the latter ending his pastorate in 1921. Then followed Rev. C. E. Miller 1921-1925. Rev. J. W. Stott 1925-1931. Rev. H. Dodd 1931-1936. Rev. F. W. Lee 1936-1940. Rev. Riley Smalley 1940-1947. Rev. Dr. R. Harvey 1948-1952. Rev. T. E. C. Roberts 1952-1956. Rev. W. T. Marchant 1956-1962 and from July 1962 to date Rev. F. J. Markowsky.

The lay members from 1921 to the present have been as follows:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1921-1922 | J. J. Story, A. J. Elliott, W. T. Britton and James Henderson. |
| 1923 | The four just named with J. W. Carrothers and H. J. Martin. |
| 1924-1925 | The same as 1923. |
| 1926 | Mr. J. Downie replaced Mr. J. Henderson the only change. |
| 1927 | Mr. W. H. Rogers replaced Mr. A. J. Elliott and Mr. Hugh Rutledge replaced Mr. H. J. Martin. |
| 1928 | No change. |



Sessions 1946

*Rev
Riley Smalley - a cousin to your
Mr. Smalley*



Sessions 1962

- 1929 Mr. J. B. Tyndall replaced Mr. J. J. Story who had resigned.
- 1930 No change.
- 1931 Mr. W. H. Rogers died on August 21st, 1931 and his son H. I. Rogers was elected to take his place. He is still an elder and has the distinction of being the oldest member in years of service.
- 1932 Mr. J. Downie passed away in June, 1932 and F. B. MacArthur was elected in his place at annual meeting in 1933.
- 1933-1937 No changes until summer of 1937 when Mr. W. T. Britton died and Mr. W. J. Johnston was elected in his stead.
- 1938-1949 No changes until summer of 1949 when Mr. Hugh Rutledge died at the age of 96 and on September 20th, 1949 Mr. J. B. Tyndall passed away. Mr. C. E. Lawrence was elected to replace Mr. Rutledge and Mr. H. F. Stevenson to replace Mr. Tyndall.
- 1950-1952 Mr. J. W. Carrothers died Sept. 22nd, 1952, aged 96 and Mr. W. K. Leachman was elected to fill the vacancy.
- 1953 Mr. W. J. Johnston died August 15th, 1953, and Mr. G. Morrison replaced him.
- 1954 No changes.
- 1955 Mr. Morrison having moved from Wawanesa, Mrs. H. J. McKibbin was elected to replace him and became our first lady member.
- 1956-1959 Mr. W. K. Leachman died December 22nd, 1959 and Mrs. J. A. Patterson was elected in his stead.

- 1960-1961 Mr. H. F. Stevenson having moved to Winnipeg in 1961, Dr. N. M. Kester was elected to replace him.
- 1962 The present Session comprises the following persons: Rev. F. J. Markowsky, H. I. Rogers, F. B. MacArthur, C. E. Lawrence, Mrs. H. J. McKibbon, Mrs. J. A. Patterson and Dr. N. M. Kester.

In October, 1929 the Session authorized the holding of evangelistic services on the charge and Rev. T. O. Woods was here from June 8-22nd, and at Chesley June 23rd to 29th, on which latter date the final service was held in Wawanesa. This appears to have been the last evangelistic services held on the circuit whereas in earlier years they were almost an annual occurrence.

At the October, 1929 meeting it was also decided to dispense with the distribution of communion cards to members, although for a short time during pastorate of Rev. F. W. Lee they were again given out, but not since.

The custom of holding communion service on Easter Sunday was discontinued in 1931, and still continues, due to so many members being absent that week end.

In May, 1931 at request of General Council the congregations voted on the question of whether or not women should be permitted to act as a member of Session. Result 20 voted in favor and 32 against, and it was 24 years later that Mrs. H. J. McKibbon was elected as our first lady member of Session on vote of our congregation.

New members have joined the church practically every year covered by this review, the largest number being on Easter Sunday, April 15th, 1937 when 16 joined by Profession of Faith and 4 by letter of transfer. Membership classes are usually held in the winter or early spring of each year by the minister, providing there are candidates.

Religious instruction to several classes at the public schools were given during the pastorates of Rev. Dr. R. Harvey and Rev. W. T. Marchant, with satisfactory results. These classes were conducted for as long as 10 weeks, usually during the winter season.

Members of Session are elected for life. At congregational meetings in 1935 and 1955 resolutions were put forward to have this altered to a term or years instead, but were voted down in each instance.

On many occasions during the period we have joined with our Anglican friends, and they with us, in holding joint services such as on Christmas and New Year's Eve, and Good Friday and same have been well supported.

Prior to September 1941 Mrs. P. Ingram had been our faithful organist for many years, and on her resignation Mrs. C. E. Lawrence was appointed to her place, which appointment the Session was pleased to confirm, and as she still occupies that position we would like to here record our deep appreciation of her faithfulness and help which adds so much to the success of our services.

The Session has at many times over the years sponsored the work of our young people in the church and community, and at present this field is being well looked after by different organizations and individuals of the church family.

Special services are held yearly with different groups and societies in attendance, such as C.G.I.T., Boy Scouts, Legion and Legion Auxiliary, I.O.D.E. Rebekahs, Masons, etc.

Communion is dispensed quarterly and such services are well attended by our members.

Wawanesa, Man.
October 5th, 1962.

F. B. MacARTHUR,
Clerk of Session.

Stewards Report

Under date of Jan. 12, 1926 at the Annual Meeting of the Wawanesa United Church, the first committee of Stewards was elected on a Motion by Mrs. A. L. Lawrence and seconded by H. C. Martin. This motion was to the effect that the Committee of Stewards be six in number and that they be elected on a rotary system of three years in office. This motion also went further in stipulating that for the first committee, the two receiving the highest number of votes be elected for three years, the two next in order two years and the next two be elected for one year and also that for the next and succeeding years that two be elected for a three year term to take the place of those whose term expired by rotation.

Those nominated were as follows: W. K. Leachman, C. R. Rogers, F. Batty, A. J. Elliott, J. Henderson, J. Downie, W. H. Rogers, W. T. Britton, Mrs. A. L. Lawrence, S. Reid, Dr. C. M. Vanstone, Mrs. J. B. Leachman and Mr. H. Bell. Out of these nominations the first committee of Stewards were elected as follows:

W. K. Leachman and Mrs. A. L. Lawrence — *Three Year Term.*
A. J. Elliot and J. Henderson — *Two Year Term.*
C. R. Rogers and W. H. Rogers — *One Year Term.*

Prior to this meeting, from what one can gather from the records and minutes of the Annual Meetings etc., the finances of our Union Church were supervised or controlled by a Finance Committee as at the Annual meeting of January 13th, 1925.

Mr. J. W. Carrothers in the absence of W. T. Britton gave the meeting a short report of the Finance Committee. It was apparently during the year of 1925 that the entire polity of the United Church of Canada was drawn up and accepted by our United Church at their annual meeting of January 12, 1926. At this point it might be well to mention that in our records prior to 1926, mention is made quite often of Church Stewards and Boards of Stewards, however it was not until 1926 that our Committee of Stewards was set up to function and perform the duties the same as is the case today.

Primarily the duties and obligations of a Committee of Stewards is to finance in its entirety, the operation of our Church. Naturally a goodly portion of the funds raised is spent on the maintenance and upkeep of our Church property. The Annex portion of our present Church was, as many of you no doubt know, the original Methodist Church, which was previously located where Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Gorrie's residence now stands. This was annexed to the main portion of our present Church in the year 1917 at a cost of \$810.00.

In 1927, the main portion of our present Church was raised and a full basement installed. In 1954 our Church was refinished completely inside and a new furnace installed which permitted more classrooms etc. for our Sunday School which were greatly needed.

Finally in 1958 our annex portion was completely excavated and a further new furnace installed for this portion of our Church alone, adding greatly to the comfort and needs of our congregation.

Since that time I might add, our entire Church has been completely repainted outside along with a new roof, making our Church at this date one to be proud of and a credit to our Community and also to those who worked so faithfully towards this end.

With respect to our Manse, as you no doubt know at this time of the Union in 1913, our present Manse was at that time the Presbyterian Manse and the house which is now owned by Mr. James Hudson, was the Methodist Parsonage. At the time of the Union it was decided to use the former Presbyterian Manse for the Union Church and the Methodist Parsonage was rented and finally sold in 1927 to Mr. James Fraser. Unquestionably many of you will also remember that during the school term of 1925-26 the Methodist Parsonage was used as a classroom for our school at which time extensive alterations were being made.



Official Board, 1962

Now that we are on the subject of the Manse, plans must be made in the very near future to replace our present Manse as this property in question has served its purpose well, however like you and I the time comes when our useful purpose on this earth comes to an end and there is no doubt that this period is rapidly approaching as far as our present Manse is concerned. Fortunately approximately five years ago, our Board of Stewards had the foresight to realize that some day within the very near future a substantial amount of

money would be needed to fulfill the above, with the result a Manse Fund was commenced by putting aside the sum of \$500.00 yearly, however, unfortunately, it appears that some provision is going to have to be made for a new manse before this fund will be of sufficient size to take care of the total outlay which will be approximately \$12 to \$15,000.00.

On looking back through the minute books of our Methodist, Presbyterian and Union Church, a meeting held March 15th, 1890 reveals where Rev. W. C. Bunt reported the result of his enquiries to borrow the sum of \$500.00 from the Imperial Bank for the proposed construction of the Methodist Church in Wawanesa. This in itself exemplifies the courage and foresight which our early pioneers displayed in their desire for Christian Fellowship. From this beginning one cannot help but admire the planning and organizing that has gone on to this day in the financing of our Church over the years, the Methodist Church becoming part of the Union Church June 30th, 1912 and eventually the United Church in 1925.

Since that time many factors and circumstances have had a great effect on the financing of our Church and a review of old records reveal only a few of these. At a congregational meeting held January 22, 1919 it is revealed that due to the influenza epidemic the previous year the Church had been closed for ten weeks, however, irrespective of this, the year's books were closed with a balance on hand of \$147.00.

Then of course we can all recall the years from 1929-1936 when conditions were extremely severe as far as finances were concerned, however even through these years our Church managed to carry on mainly as a result of sacrifices on the part of many, from our Ministers and every individual in our congregation at that time.

Just as our own personal needs have increased over the years, so have the needs of the Church. At a meeting of the Official Board January 12th, 1927 it was moved that the approval of a budget of \$2,700.00 be put before the congregation at the forthcoming Annual Meeting. Compare this amount to our present 1962 Budget of \$9,934.00, of which \$1,800.00 is our Missionary and Maintenance Allocation and one can easily understand why each and every-one of us must share and contribute to the needs of our Church.

At this time it is appropriate that I made special mention of different organizations who have contributed not only monetarily but also through hard work and personal sacrifice on the part of many individuals to ensure that our Church finances were sound. Of these organizations special mention should go toward our Women's organizations "The United Church Women" formerly known as the W.A., who have worked so faithfully. Then of course comes our Sunday School, Senior and Junior Choirs, Boy Scouts, C.G.I.T., Mission Band and Explorers, all of whom credit is well deserving.

Since the year of 1926 the following have served as Stewards of our Church and in many instances their term of office have been far in excess of that originally laid down:

Mrs. A. L. Lawrence
W. K. Leachman
A. J. Elliot
J. Henderson

C. R. Roger
W. T. Britton
R. C. Rutledge
D. J. Downie

A. Eason
S. Reid
J. D. Harrower
G. A. Sommerville

R. Blain
 F. B. MacArthur
 H. J. McKibbon
 C. E. Lawrence
 H. Stevenson
 F. Batty
 H. W. Lawrence

H. J. Williams
 J. C. Beveridge
 J. R. Spencer
 D. H. Stewart
 S. W. Hembroff
 J. K. Cory
 J. W. Raisin

W. J. M. Gorrie
 Dr. N. M. Kester
 A. J. Brown
 R. Southcombe
 J. A. Bund
 D. R. Cory
 D. C. Wanless

As of this date our Committee of Stewards is made up of the following:

Mrs. J. Lea
 Mrs. W. J. M. Gorrie
 R. Southcombe
 J. K. Cory
 D. C. Wanless

H. W. Lawrence
 H. J. Williams
 S. W. Hembroff
 J. R. Spencer
 A. J. Brown

J. F. Burgess
 J. A. Bund
 W. J. M. Gorrie

Submitted by J. F. Burgess, Chairman.

History Of The Wawanesa United Church Women

The amalgamation in 1912 of the St. Andrews Presbyterian and the Methodist Churches brought about the formation of the women's organization known as the Union Ladies Aid. This group was formed in June, 1913 under the leadership of:

<i>Hon. Pres.</i>	Mrs. Mooney
<i>President</i>	Mrs. Allison
<i>Secretary</i>	Mrs. McPhail
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mrs. Smith
<i>Organist</i>	Mrs. Dent

In June, 1915 the Methodist Ladies left this Union and reorganized under the name of the Methodist Ladies Aid, only to disband the following year and reunite with the Union Ladies again. In 1936 the name of this organization was changed to the Woman's Association, more commonly referred to as W. A. In September, 1953 the W.A. affiliated with the W.M.S. (Women's Missionary Society) and continued share in their missionary work and study until 1962.

Due to lack of records it is difficult to name all the Presidents of this organization previous to 1949 but some to be remembered are Mrs. McGregor, Mrs. Vanstone, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Reid, Mrs. Lea, Mrs. H. McKibbon and Mrs. C. Orr. In 1949-50, 51-52 Mrs. R. Blain was President, Mrs. C. McKibbon 1953, Mrs. R. Elliott 1954-55, Mrs. R. Blain 1956, Mrs. H. Rogers 1957-58, Mrs. A. Patterson 1959-60, and Mrs. Harvey Rogers in 1961.

On February 4th, 1954 a meeting was called for the purpose of forming a second group of the W.A. to give mothers of young children and employed women the opportunity to belong to the Woman's Association. This group to be known as the Evening Group W.A. The first Executive elected were:

<i>Hon. Pres.</i>	Mrs. Theo Roberts
<i>President</i>	Mrs. H. Lawrence
<i>Vice-Pres.</i>	Mrs. N. Burgess



U.C.W. Executive, 1962

<i>Secretary</i>	Mrs. C. Lawrence
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mrs. J. McKibbon

In 1956 Mrs. R. Sherred was elected President, followed by Mrs. Kester in 1957, Mrs. J. McKibbon 1958-59, and Mrs. E. Downie in 1960-61.

In May, 1959 the General Council of the United Church of Canada proposed the combining of the W.A. and the W.M.S. This proposal was presented to the Wawanese W. A. for their consideration and Mrs. Marchant, Mrs. H. McKibbon, Mrs. J. McKibbon, Mrs. Neil Burgess and Mrs. Graham Ross were appointed to act as a committee until June, 1961 when Mrs. Marchant, Mrs. A. Patterson, Mrs. John Burgess and Graham Ross were appointed as a Provisional Committee to set up the new Organization to be known as the Wawanese United Church Women. The duty of this group was to carry on the work of the former W. A. and the W.M.S. At an Inaugural Service Sunday, January 14, 1962, held in the United Church, the following Officers were installed by the Rev. T. Marchant:

<i>President</i>	Mrs. H. Lawrence
<i>1st Vice</i>	Mrs. H. Lawrence
<i>2nd Vice</i>	Mrs. E. Downie
<i>Secretary</i>	Mrs. J. Fisher
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mrs. B. Jackson
<i>Afternoon Unit Leader</i>	Mrs. V. Marshall

Evening Unit Leader Mrs. N. Fisher

The aim and the purpose of the U.C.W. is to unite all women of the United Church Congregation, to encourage growth in Christian knowledge, to cultivate Christian Stewardship and to provide funds for Congregational purposes and the work of the Church.

Submitted by Mrs. J. F. Fisher, Secretary-Treasurer, U.C.W.

Wawanesa's History Of Sunday Schools

in

Methodist, Presbyterian, Union and United Churches

23 Sept. 1962

The Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Wawanesa had active Sunday Schools. But prior to 1898 the two churches had one church school, then on the first Sunday of 1898 they began their own. The assets were divided, \$65.00 being the Methodist share in addition to 50 books for a library and other supplies. Mr. J. C. Robinson was the Methodist Superintendent and Mr. J. J. Story was Superintendent for the Presbyterian group. Before local union of the two churches in 1912 other Superintendents in the Methodist Sunday School were Mr. R. B. Fawcett, H. C. Martin and Noble Lang. Mr. J. J. Story continued in the Presbyterian Sunday School.

These pioneer Sunday Schools also had many devoted teachers and we are glad to know that Miss Bertha Eason, Mrs. A. D. Naismith and Mrs. Fanny Burnell (Story) are still interested. Mr. Chas. Leachman was a teacher in the Methodist S.S. for many years.



Methodist Bible Class, 1910



Adult Class, United Church Sunday School, 1937

The 1920 Annual Union S.S. report stated, "As children are under the care of the school for only one hour each week, it cannot do more than assist the parents in their duty of training them and giving them a knowledge of God's Word in such a manner as to lead to a decision for Christ." The purpose of Christian Education in this early report is just as true today.

The first superintendent after union was Mr. R. B. Fawcett followed by J. J. Story in 1920, C. H. Rutledge in 1922, Geo. Somerville in 1931 and R. C. Rutledge in 1933. In 1947 C. E. Lawrence was elected and continues to serve in this capacity. Mr. F. B. MacArthur has been a royal supporter and Assistant Superintendent since 1933.

Among the capable secretaries of which we have record were Mr. W. K. Leachman in the Methodist S.S. and Mr. Jack McKenzie in the Presbyterian S.S. Jack McKenzie, continued in the union S.S. with Mrs. Alba Leachman (Marlatt) and H. S. Ferris following later. Since 1925 Messrs. H. Rogers, H. Lawrence, M. Gorrie, Mrs. N. M. Burgess (Tyndall) and Miss Ruby Cory followed Mr. Jack McKibbin was elected in 1960.

The teachers of the classes give hours of time and study and teaching, therefore they are the main part of the Sunday Schools. This community activity continues weekly and because of its value to all, we would like to mention the names of everyone. However, as records are not complete we can only mention a few.

Mrs. F. Batty was asked to teach the Primary or Beginner's class in 1917 at the time the Methodist church building was moved and attached to the former Presbyterian church. She continued until 1943 and many can recall her teaching and songs. Among her many assistants were Mrs. J. Lea and Miss Beulah Cory.

Another class of special note was the Junior Bible Class. These young ladies were an active class in Sunday School and at mid-week meetings. Mrs. A. McGregor was the capable teacher and leader for many years. Today we have the Evening Group of United Church Women and a Senior Class of Boys and Girls from 15 years. Mrs. G. Ross has been the teacher of this good group since it was organized in 1956.

Our Adult Bible Class has long been the mainstay of our Sunday School. This group of parents and interested friends has relied on the Minister as its teacher but for several years from April to November is taught by its own members. The minister's time is taken with services during this period at our other appointments. Very few Sunday Schools can look with pride to a group of this kind.

Mrs. Alba Leachman led an early Methodist Sunday School choir with Mrs. Edna Mawhinney (Rutledge) and Mrs. Edith Logan (Leachman) as organists. The junior choir of the United Church was reorganized by Mrs. H. J. McKibbon in 1928 with boys and girls. Then in 1938 Miss Bernie Ingram led a good choir of girls with Ethel Lawrence as accompanist. Ethel continued until 1946. Today we have thirty-five girls in this choir under the faithful and capable leadership of Mrs. R. B. Sexton since 1951.

The Nursery Department Superintendent in the Methodist Sunday School was Mrs. Chas. Leachman. We believe she continued in the Union and United Sunday Schools until her death in 1935 when Mrs. G. H. Harrison was elected. Mrs. E. B. Jackson now has the responsibility of contacting new mothers in our area and placing the babies names on the Cradle Roll.

There have been special interests such as honouring mother on Mother's Day, Christmas, Easter and Rally Promotion Services. Now our White Gift Service takes the place of the Sunday School Christmas Concert — Many will remember the Day School and Sunday School alternating each year with this program and the leadership of Mrs. Reta McKibbon and many others. The "White Gifts" are sent to needy children in our area and to the Winnipeg Missions.

The library for years served all age groups but at present is stocked and mainly used by the younger children. The original library in the Methodist Sunday School had its librarian Mr. O. T. H. Elliott. The faithfulness of Miss Isobel Poole and her assistants for the last number of years is appreciated.

Today we honour those who down through the 50 and more years have given their time and influence to help us with our knowledge and understanding of what it really means to be a Christian.

Four stages of our church building development has assisted the Sunday School greatly and made its work easier and more effective.

(1) The attachment of the former Methodist building to the former Presbyterian church in 1917.

(2) The raising of the whole church and putting a full concrete basement under the main parts in 1927.

(3) The refinishing of the church inside and new furnace in 1954. This permitted us to have more classes in the annex and basement. The old and unsightly curtains and rods which had to be put up and taken down in the main part of the church were no longer needed.

(4) Finally the finishing of the excavation under the annex in 1958 and the installation of a furnace for the annex section of our building, all added up to additional needed and comfortable classroom space.

Submitted by Charles E. Lawrence, Sup't of S.S.

The Wawanesa United Church Choir

A Choir must have singers but without the Choir Leader and Organist — the singing will not go too far.

Early history has been hard to find but the following facts have been given to me — Mrs. W. S. Foster was Organist in the Methodist Church for Eight Years prior to the Union. Mrs. Tressa Ingram — nee Simms — was Organist in the Presbyterian Church in 1911. Mrs. H. J. C. Warner — nee Phyllis Batty — was Organist in the Union Church during the years 1918 to 1923.

Rev. J. W. and Mrs. Stott came to this church in June 1925 — the choir was reorganized — Mr. Stott being Choir Leader and Mrs. Stott — Organist. At the annual meeting in 1929 Mr. Stott asked to be relieved of his duties in the choir. Mrs. Ingram had returned to Wawanesa to be with her parents and she accepted the Choir Leadership with Mrs. Stott as Organist. Following Mr. Stott's death in Sept. 1931 — Mrs. Ingram accepted the Organist's place and Mr. R. Blain was appointed Assistant Choir Leader and Organist. Mrs. J. R. A. Pollard — nee Maybelle Miller — came from Regina, Sask. at this time and joined the Mutual staff — our choir needed help and building up — we were able to have her take over the leadership. The foundation that Mrs. Pollard laid has been followed in many ways up to the present time. The fall of 1933 — Miss M. J. McDonald and Mr. R. Blain, who had been Assistants for Mrs. Pollard, took over the Leadership and Music selecting. The choir had few changes until June, 1941 — Mrs. Ingram, our Organist, moved with her family to Winnipeg and left us wondering what would happen when the fall term came around. All was settled as Mrs. C. E. Lawrence came to reside here and took over the Organ work. Miss McDonald had to give up her choir work owing to illness and Mrs. Harvey accepted the task until Dr. Harvey retired. Mrs. Lawrence accepted the Leadership along with the Organ at this



1939 Choir



1953 Choir

time and we are most grateful for her work. Mr. Blain has been Assistant Choir Leader and Organist through these years — always ready to give help at any time — very necessary for the leader to have this assurance in their work.

At our Annual meeting in February, 1932 — we were advised that a Gown Fund had been set up — the Secretary to inquire from the Publishing House in Toronto in regard to this matter. We were referred to Sainthill-Levine Co. and by donations — Mrs. McDonald gave a tea in her home — Church Board gave us silver collections at our Sacred Music Service — we were able to wear the Gowns at our Easter Service. The Gown Co. were very considerate with us as on two occasions I had to return the draft telling them that we were out of money. Our last payment of \$45.00 was about due — the Ladies' Aid gave me a cheque for this amount — the choir to repay when our funds could cover it, however, our cheque was returned telling us that this was a gift. Another instance of "what would we do without the Ladies' Aid?"

1946 — this was the year of our big project — the Organ that had been in the church for over 50 years had become a real task for the Organist — it required a boy to pump it and sometimes with all the efforts it did not give the sound at the right time. The members decided to make a canvass of the community — which was supported by all. We sponsored a Play from Cypress River — our own Concert and a programme in which Mrs. C. Kitson and Miss Sharpe of Brandon College helped us. At choir practice on January 10, 1947 the members decided to make a payment on the Minshull

Organ and it was delivered January 24, 1947 — the dedication service was February 9, 1947.

The choir has endeavored to prepare music for service on Sunday — Anniversary — Christmas Carol Service — Easter and any time that a special occasion has arisen.

Our annual meeting was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Carrothers for 20 years — an evening that was an inspiration for all the members — we always had new energy for the year.

We have taken part in Festival work — our first trip to Brandon Festival, the Adjudicator, Yacamini — corrected our errors but congratulated our Tenor section, saying it was a pleasure to hear such a fine romantic tenor line. The next year we prepared for Brandon again — our success the year before gave us courage — the Adjudicator, Mr. Dodds — gave us credit for the good we did but had to close his remarks saying — you were down a full tone but thank goodness you all went down together. Tiger Hills Festival has been very helpful to the choir — our tones have been true although we have some improvements to make before the next appearance. Rotary Festivals in Brandon in early December have been enjoyable — giving us pleasure as well as learning from other choirs.

Through the years — if we have had any success in our efforts — it is due to the appreciation and help from the Church as a whole.

Submitted by Katherine M. Hampton, Sec.-Treas.

The History Of The Junior Choir

The first Sunday School Choir was organized in 1928 by Mrs. H. J. McKibbon. The choir consisted of ten or twelve boys and girls. They were



1942 Junior Choir



1962 *Junior Choir*

taught part singing of soprano, alto, tenor and bass. The organist was Miss Fanny Story.

In 1938 the choir was organized with Bernie Ingram, who continued until 1941, as leader. Ethel Lawrence was pianist. During this time the girls participated in the Brandon Festival and many concerts.

Mrs. Bruce Noton, now of Flin Flon, the former Muriel Lea, was leader from 1941-45.

From 1945-46 Mildred Leachman was choir leader.

Mary Williams took over as leader in 1947.

From 1948-51 Mrs. Herb Lawrence led the choir with June Stevenson and Mrs. Vic Marshall as pianist. During this time the choir bought its blue gowns which are still in use.

In 1951, Mrs. R. B. Sexton took over the choir. The membership was thirty to forty. Glen Holden, Eileen Blain, and Marguerite Blain were the pianists. Now Beverley Ann Brown accompanies us. The present choir has taken part in many festivals: Tiger Hills and Brandon. In 1958, when the Obernkirchen Choir from Germany came to Winnipeg the choir was fortunate enough to hear their performance.

Submitted by Marnie Hembroff, May Jones.

C.G.I.T.

In 1920 the first local group of C.G.I.T. was organized by Miss Evelyn Story, of Wawanesa, who was then, the Provincial Organizer of this non-denominational organization. The original group was under the leadership of Mrs. A. E. Parsons, the wife of the minister serving our church at that time, and Mrs. Herb Martin, wife of the station agent, Mildred Parsons, the minister's daughter, is reported to have been the first president. Emma Elliott Thornborough, a member of the first group recalls some of the members names — Gladys Booker, Avis and Hazel Anderson, Jenny Burgess, Jean Heal and Eleanor Martin, who was later to take her mother's place as leader. One of the first money raising projects of this group was the selling of hot dogs to the curlers at the old rink on the Fair Grounds. Mrs. Thornborough recalls this as the first time she had ever heard of hot dogs! The C.G.I.T. uniform at this time was the same, a middie and dark skirt. For camp — a middie and pleated serge bloomers!

The first local C.G.I.T. camp was held on the Old Souris City Flats in the summer of 1921. Mrs. Stevenson, the wife of Dr. Stevenson from Belmont, was the camp nurse. Groups from Treherne, Holland, Cypress River, Glenboro and Wawanesa participated in the program. The girls lived in tents during the



1924 CGIT Group

course of the camp. This is a far cry from the comparative luxury of Camp Wasago's sturdy cabins, and bunk beds, isn't it?

The next camp was held at a campsite on the J. B. Leachman farm. The local group that attended this camp was led by Eleanor Martin. Mrs. Martin had retired from the C.G.I.T. work to organize a boys' Tuxis organization. Gertie Bellamy Reid was the camp nurse. Some of the local campers were Fran and Agnes Fraser, Helen Boyd, Millie Ferris, and Ethel Ferris West. At this camp Glenboro, Stockton, and Carroll C.G.I.T. groups were also represented.

Mrs. Kay Stott became leader in 1925 when her husband, Rev. J. W. Stott, took the local charge. Some members of this group were Mil Ferris, Ethel Law-



1962 CGIT Group

rence, Althea Wilson, Esther Elliott, and Jean Stevenson. The camp that this group attended was held again on the farm of J. B. Leachman. The towns represented were Rathwell, Treherne, Cypress River, Glenboro, Stockton, Belmont, Carroll and Wawanesa. There were six or seven tents pitched along the river bank, with one big tent for eating and group activities. The Stotts left in 1931, and Mrs. Stott, who now lives in Winnipeg, still has pictures and memories of the farewell party given by the C.G.I.T. in her honour.

Rev. Dodd replaced Rev. Stott, but I was unable to find who took over the C.G.I.T. Leadership.

C.G.I.T. activities continued through the years in our church. One significant event appeared in the February 20, 1947 edition of the Wawanesa Optimist. February 10-16 of this year was Manitoba C.G.I.T. Week. The local groups, then under the leadership of Miss Alice Tomlin, wore their mid-dies through the week, and on the week-end had a Skating Party, and conducted a church service. The president of this group was June Cory, and group leaders were Merle Ferris and Ruth Mooney.

A few years later, in 1935, I was privileged to become a C.G.I.T. member. The group to which I belonged was under the leadership of my mother and Wilma Poole. There were twenty-one members in this group including Eileen Blain, Joan Campbell, Audrey MacKay, Carol Silliphant, Lorna Southcombe, Wilma Elliott, Beryl Wilson, Ina Gullett and Margaret Robinson among the Seniors and Irene Taylor, Lynda Rogers, Kathleen Ferris, Myrna Elliott, Penny Burgess, Sharon Nichol, Carol Gorrie, Marguerite Blain, and Sharon Bowers among the Juniors.

Mrs. Marchant became leader the following year, and continued until this spring. Last year we again had enough members to form a Junior and Senior group. I'd like to introduce the executive of these groups.

From Mrs. Marchant's Senior Group:

President Heather Lawrence
Secretary
Treasurer Evelyn Gorrie
 And from my Junior Group:
President Joyce Kester
Secretary Barbara Grant
Treasurer Pat Marshall

This year Miss Florence English will take over as leader of the group. Miss English is a teacher in our Local Collegiate. Faye Markowsky will be assisting as a Junior leader.

Submitted by Norma Jean Kester.

Scout History

The Wawanesa Scout History is not a long one but has achievements and some success in training better citizens.

The first troop was organized by C. W. Orr, who was the Scout Leader and sponsored by a committee of two — Dr. C. M. Vanstone and H. E. Hemmons. Bob Hemmons was appointed assistant Scout Leader. The original charter was issued December of 1934. The following summer the troop camped near the Souris River on J. B. Leachman's farm. Clarence Orr was unable to leave his work and the camp was led by Fred Douglas of Glenboro who brought along the Glenboro Troop.

In 1936 the Charter was renewed with Rev. F. W. Lee as Scoutmaster and the troop disbanded after one season.

C. W. Orr with E. A. Mitchell as assistant again brought the boys together in 1944 and the troop operated for two seasons.

Cubs

Scouting activities were resumed in April, 1950, with the formation of a Wolf Cub Pack under the leadership of James Cory and Jack C. McKenzie. Eighteen boys were registered. The first investiture ceremony was held on May 23 when the following boys were officially welcomed into the world wide brotherhood of Scouting.

Randall Atkinson	Robert Ferris	Lawrie Nichol
Larry Elliott,	Paul Lawrence	Hugh Wilton
Wayne Ferris	Kenneth Taylor	Lorne Elliott
Elmer Robinson	Neil Couling	Robert (Red) Ferris
Brad Bentley	Clare Ferris	Garry Peterson

During 1950 other names were added to the roll and these boys were invested as cubs. Among these were: Jim Ferris, Buddy Graham, Mervin Robinson, Billy Stephens, Keith Elder.

By the end of the first year of operations the Pack boasted a total membership of 24 boys.



1944 Scout Troop

Meetings were held in the United Church basement in the warmer months of the year and in the basement of the school during the cold months. The heating system in the church at that time was not of the best and it usually fell to the leaders to start the fire and shovel on the coal.

The records show that as a pack the boys enjoyed many outdoor activities, hikes, rambles and some community service such as taking the offertory at the Legion Decoration Day Service in August and the door to door sale of Legion poppies in November. A visit was made in November of 1950 to the 1st Presbyterian Pack in Brandon when 22 cubs, two leaders and four members of the Group committee attended.

Under the leadership of Jack McKenzie the boys enjoyed inter-pack visitation with Glenboro to play hockey and from these hockey games, organized sport for the boys of Wawanesa was once more taken up and good support was given the pack in this phase of their physical development.

The Cub Pack carried on with not too many changes for the next years. Some of the older boys by this time had graduated into the Scout Troop which was formed early in 1951 under the leadership of Gordon Hesse and Beverley Orr. Among the first cubs to become members of the Scout Troop at the time were Neil Couling, Lawrie Nichol, Elmer Robinson, Ken Taylor. Among those who were associated with the Pack and helped in its leadership were Bud Mitchell, Rev. T. Roberts and Bruce Seddon. By 1956 the Scout Troop was enjoying excellent leadership and the Cub Pack was finding itself in difficulty for lack of leadership. The last year of operation the leaders were Garry Small and Clare Boneham and since 1956 the pack has not been re-organized. During the past six years many of our boys have been denied the opportunity and pleasure of being members of a Cub Pack and it is our hope that suitable leadership will be found soon so that the boys of our Church

and community will be able to develop under the cubbing program and thus advance on into our excellent Scout Troop.

The troop was reorganized in March 1951 with Gordon Hesse as Scoutmaster and Bev. Orr as assistant.

There were about 15 boys in the troop and were divided into two patrols with Carl Ferris and Gary Cory as Patrol Leaders.

The first year that the troop was formed they attended a one week camp at Y Point on Pelican Lake. The Shilo Scouts were also at this camp and the Wawanesa boys excelled in camping and all competitions with the more experienced Shilo Troop.

At this time the C.G.I.T. were active under the leadership of Laura Lenton and Joyce Stewart. The two organizations joined to present a concert in the spring of 1952 which was a huge success.

In the summer of 1952 the boys again went to camp at Y Point and again enjoyed swimming and other aspects of outdoor camping. Jack Fisher was presented with the Scout "Thank You" Badge in recognition of his contribution to the Wawanesa group.

During this camp the weatherman tripped them up, however, and one night two of their tents blew down drenching boys and bedding. By doubling up with their drier chums in other tents the wet boys improvised until morning and by noon the next day all order was restored.

In 1953 the camp was moved to a small point on the west side of Pelican



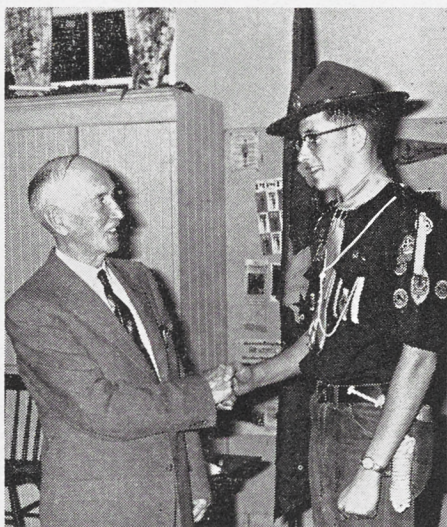
1962 First Wawanesa Troop

Lake. The Wawanesa Troop was joined by the Lone Scout troop from the Chesley District at this camp. Again the weather interfered and on the last Saturday night we were rained out and forced to return to Wawanesa.

During these three years we saw many of the boys graduate from grade schoolers to young men with fond memories of their days in the 1st Wawanesa.

Rev. T. C. Roberts assisted by H. W. Lawrence took over the troop in the fall of 1953. The troop consisted of 21 boys and many Scouting activities such as hikes and week-end camps were enjoyed. In the spring of 1953 a Bronze Arrowhead Course was conducted with Souris and Glenboro joining Wawanesa in training 21 boys. The instructors were Field Commissioner H. Northcott, of Brandon, Theo Roberts, Herb Lawrence, Gordon Crow of Souris and Scout Master of Glenboro.

Rev. T. C. Roberts had previously interested three boys, Bill Sowiak, Cecil Bund and Jim Bund in the Lone Scout Program and these boys were later joined by Brian Minary and Robert Silliphant. This patrol operated from 1953 until 1955.



Donald Lawrence receives Queen's Scout Badge from Mayor C. C. Gorrie, Wawanesa, June, 1960.

At a special Scout service held in November, 1953, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Gorrie presented the troop colors to the troop in memory of their son Charles, and Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Noton presented the Queen's colors in memory of their son Reginald.

During the next four years two boys, Larry Elliott and Wayne Ferris attained the high rank of 1st Class Scouts and were privileged to attend the 8th World Jamboree of New Horizons. This gathering of Boy Scouts from almost every country in the world was held at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, in the summer of 1955. Their expenses were shared by the I.O.D.E., Rebekah Lodge, the Legion, The Wawanesa Mutual Insurance Company, the troop and parents.

H. W. Lawrence was then appointed Scout Master in the fall of 1956. In

July, 1960, Donald Lawrence attended the United States 50th anniversary of Scouting Jamboree at Colorado Springs. This same year, Russell Orr and Roland Elliott attended the Saskatchewan Jamboree. The group was able to help them out with their expenses. R. Harris was appointed Assistant Scoutmaster in the fall of 1959.

Donald Lawrence attained the highest rank in scouting and is the only one in this district to reach this rank. He received the Queen's Scout badge from the Queen's representative, Mayor C. C. Gorrie in June of 1960. He later received congratulations and his certificate from the Lieutenant-Governor, E. Willis, at the Queen's Scout ceremony in the Parliament Buildings.

Parent Nights

Two nights, one in 1954 and another in 1962, were devoted to the parents so that they could observe and take part in what the boys did at their meetings.

The 1954 night was highlighted when seven Wolf Cubs graduated from cubbing to scouting in the "Going Up Ceremony". The Field Commissioner, H. Northcott inspected the boys and later gave them a talk on Scouting. Gordon Hesse was presented with a brief case in appreciation of his years as Scoutmaster.

The two patrols led by Brian Dick, patrol leader of the Eagles, and Jack Boneham of the Wolves, went all out in the Parent Night held on Boy Scout Week, 1962. They had prepared displays and demonstrations showing what is accomplished in scouting. Many photographs which were displayed on the wall brought back memories and showed how fast a boy grows to a young man. Field Commissioner Dick Yates spoke to the boys during the camp fire period. Mrs. C. C. Gorrie, Rev. T. Marchant and Dick Yates judged the displays and the Wolves won with their camping scene. The Eagles won the demonstration with an explanation of the uniform. The Mayor, C. C. Gorrie, congratulated the boys, and Harvey Rogers thanked the leaders.

Camps

The Court of Honor composed of the patrol leaders and assistants organized and led many senior patrol and troop overnight camps.

Two winter overnight camps were held in January of 1959 and 1961, and proved to be a real adventure in Scouting. All meals were prepared out of doors but a summer cottage was used to sleep in.

Each spring and fall all meetings were held outside whenever possible. During the winter many Saturday hikes were enjoyed.

Patrol Leader Conferences

The Scouts took part in two conferences, one at Shilo and the other in Brandon. Interesting programs of instruction were conducted and many new ideas went home with them.

Troop Visitations

Exchange visits between Glenboro and Wawanesa have added excitement on different occasions and a tour of Camp Shilo and Rivers gave the boys a chance to drive snowmobiles and take mock parachute jumps. Large guns and aeroplanes make impressions on their minds that will never be forgotten.

Ice Stampedes

The Brandon district (Shilo and Brandon) hold an Ice Stampede each year although our boys are not included in the competitions, they enjoy watching other cubs and scouts take part in the chuck wagon, tricycle races and other games on ice. This is attended each year.

Peace Garden Camporees

Camporees give the scouts an opportunity to demonstrate their camping skill. The boys won Grade A red ribbons in 1957-59-61 and 62, the four years that they have taken part.

Baden Powell Week

Each year on Boy Scout Week about B.P.'s birthday, February 22, they parade to Church and conduct the service. R. Harris has preached the sermon the last three years.

The Scout Slogan

"Do a good turn to someone daily." Many troop, patrol, and individual good turns have been done over the years and it is hoped that B. P.'s words, "to make someone happy is to be happy yourself" will not be forgotten.

Girls

Boys of Scout age do not usually have much time for girls but when the C.G.I.T. provide them with doughnuts and cokes as they did last spring, they think they are all right.

Group Committees

The first group committee was organized in April, 1944 with G. H. Harrison as president and H. Bell as vice president. J. D. Harrower was elected secretary.

The scout troop, after 1950, was sponsored by the United Church, Wawanesa, and a group committee was formed at this time with H. W. Lawrence as chairman. H. Lawrence passed over this responsibility to F. E. Ferris when he assumed the Assistant Scout Master's job in 1953. F. E. Ferris was followed by J. K. Cory in 1958. Jim Cory is still chairman of this committee with Clair Boneham as secretary-treasurer. The other members of the committee are H. Rogers, L. Grant, A. Bund, Mrs. A. R. Nichol, Mrs. C. E. Lawrence.

Submitted by H. W. L.

The Mission Band And Of The Explorers

The Mission Band has been a part of our Christian Education program for many years. Unfortunately our records are very incomplete. This group is the first group of school-age children and includes both boys and girls from 6 to 8 years. Many of our young people have happy memories of going directly from school, being treated to a cup of chocolate and a cookie, then settling down to a period of study of other children in the world. Their little publication was called "World Friends". The only names of leaders on record are those of Mrs. J. E. Milloy and Mrs. F. B. McArthur, leaders for many years and later Mrs. Edward Robinson assisted by daughter Margaret, Mrs. Graham Ross and Mrs. H. J. Williams.

The Explorers is a group for girls 8-11 years. It has been active in our church program for some years and many of our girls have benefited from their participation. Leaders have been Mrs. Hembroff, Mrs. Kester, Miss Betty Wilson and Mrs. Theo Roberts to name only a few. The girls of this group move from it to C.G.I.T. The girls study, have religious instruction and also raise small fund each year and enjoy recreational activities.

United Church Of Treesbank

The first Methodist church was built at Treesbank in 1892 and the minister was supplied by Methven.

In 1916 the Pastoral District was changed to Stockton and Rev. Tench was the minister.

This arrangement continued until 1938.

In 1940 the congregation met and arranged to be placed in Brandon



Old Treesbank Church



New Treesbank Church

Presbytery. Brandon agreed to supply them with lay preachers and Mr. Gerald Olds and Mr. Cecil Cater were their ministers.

In 1943 the United church of Treesbank joined the Wawanesa Pastorate.

In early years Treesbank had three churches, Anglican, Presbyterian and Methodist, and the two churches were still standing in 1955, the Anglican and the Methodist. Both were old and in very poor repair so it was decided to take them down and using what material was fit, to build one church to serve both denominations, the Anglican and the United.

It is interesting to note that some of the early records were found in the cornerstone when the church was demolished. The work of rebuilding was done by voluntary labor supervised by Mr. Albert Cullen.

The new building was dedicated in October, 1957.

Treesbank United Church, 1962

Session:

Carol Clark
Norris Brown

Gordon Watson

Submitted by Mrs. Harold Vane, Secretary-Treasurer.

Committee of Stewards:

Harold Vane
Bert Clark

Raymer Brown
Gordon Watson

Mrs. Muriel Vane Secretary-Treasurer

Trustee Board:

Carol Clark
Alex. Clark

Norris Brown

Brandon Hills Church

Brandon Hills Church was built in 1896 and opened its doors Oct. 18, 1896, furnished and free of debt.

Mrs. R. Morrison, daughter of the late Mr. Hugh McPherson who came from Nova Scotia to Brandon Hills in 1879, with the George Roddick party, Mrs. McPherson and the family followed in 1880, gives us the following information:

In 1881 a Doctor Robertson, missionary called at their log house and finding no one at home, tacked a note on the door saying there would be a service held there on Sunday.

Later a Rev. Mowat and then a Rev. Kelly conducted services at the McPherson home.

The school was built in 1882 and services were held in it until the church was built.

Building the church was a combined effort, Methodist and Presbyterian, with services held alternately morning and evening. One choir served both congregations but each had its own organist.

Brandon Hills joined the Wawanesa pastorate in 1956.

For the above information we are indebted to Mrs. Robert Morrison, (the former Miss Hattie McPherson).



United Church, Brandon Hills

Offices of United Church of Brandon Hills

Session:
Johnston McPherson
Ernest Nicol

Committee of Stewards:
Johnston McPherson
Howard McPherson
W. Y. Roddick
Purcell Baker
Bert Knudson
Robert Morrison
George MacKay
Mrs. H. Haithwaite

Secretary-Treasurer Ernest Nicol

In 1939 a cairn was erected on the grounds of the church honoring the pioneers, with the following inscription, "In honor of the pioneers who settled in the Brandon Hills district in 1879 and 1880. They blazed the trail for us and for generations yet unborn", erected 1939.

A memorial to the fallen members of the armed forces of both World Wars, from Brandon Hills district, also stands on the church grounds.

Chesley Church

Chesley church joined the Wawanesa pastorate of the Union church in 1924 and continued until 1954, when it was decided to close the church.

Chesley church, prior to becoming part of the Union church had been associated with the Methodist pastorate, and in the earlier years with the Methven circuit.

Through the years the church has been an active and progressive centre, but due to the short distances from Wawanesa and Nesbitt and with the improved roads and easier methods of travel; and also with Young People's organizations attracting the youth of the district to larger centers, it was the considered judgment of the community that this was its only course.

Chesley church was built in 1898 and so celebrated its fifteenth anniversary in 1948. While it is always a matter of regret when an old and honored institution comes to an end, we welcome some former Chesley congregation members to our church in Wawanesa, and feel it is our gain.

Chesley church will be fondly remembered for many years by those who received there, their early Christian instruction and education, and a debt of gratitude is owed to those foresighted members of the community who built this church and served in it for over fifty years.

We understand that the community is presently planning to build a cairn on the church site, a memorial to the church and to the pioneers of this district.

British And Foreign Bible Society, Canadian Auxiliary, Wawanesa

In 1907 Mr. Alfred Eason was appointed secretary for the British and Foreign Bible Society. At this time Mr. Eason kept Bibles for sale in his own home.

Miss Bertha Eason recalls that the Bibles were kept in a little cupboard in the hall.

The Eason twins, Bertie and Josie, received Bibles for their birthday that year, and she remembers them being taken from the little cupboard. She still has her Bible, badly worn but still used.

Mr. Eason was the secretary for some years but we do not have any record of who took over the office following him; or through the intervening years.

Mrs. J. B. Leachman has been secretary for ten years, since 1952 and has done a splendid job of making the canvass during her term. In the ten years she has collected over \$1000.00.

Prior to Mrs. Leachman being appointed secretary, Miss Bertha Eason was secretary for a time.

Mrs. Leachman has asked to be relieved of her office but as no one has been appointed to take her place with two appointed from the Anglican church has agreed to carry on for this year.

We extend to her our grateful thanks for her faithful service.

It is a matter of real interest to us to learn that some months ago Miss Bertha Eason took out a Life Membership to the Canadian Bible Society indicating her sustained interest in this work.

METHODIST MINISTERS

1890-1912

Rev. W. C. Bunt
Rev. T. B. Wilson
Rev. A. Gordon
Rev. G. F. McCullagh
Rev. J. H. Burrows
Rev. W. F. Cann
Rev. W. F. C. Leech
Rev. Oliver Coleman
Rev. Price

PRESBYTERIAN MINISTERS

1891-1912

Rev. Alex Currie
Rev. Peter Scott
Rev. M. R. Stevenson
Rev. G. W. Langille
Rev. D. R. Clare

UNITED CHURCH

1912-1962

Rev. Robert Dewar
Rev. George Irwin
Rev. Elsey
Rev. A. E. Parsons
Rev. C. S. Miller
Rev. John Stott
Rev. H. Dodd
Rev. F. W. Lee
Rev. R. Smalley
Rev. John Ridd
Rev. Robert Harvey
Rev. Theo. Roberts
Rev. Thomas W. Marchant
Rev. F. J. Markowsky

Church Officers

MINISTER

Rev. F. J. Markowsky

SESSION

F. B. MacArthur Clerk

H. Rogers

Mrs. H. J. McKibbon

C. E. Lawrence

Mrs. A. Patterson

Dr. N. M. Kester

COMMITTEE OF STEWARDS

J. F. Burgess Chairman

H. J. Williams

D. C. Wanless

J. R. Spencer

W. J. M. Gorrie

H. W. Lawrence

R. Southcombe

J. A. Bund

A. J. Brown

S. W. Hembroff

Mrs. W. J. M. Gorrie

J. K. Cory

Mrs. J. Lea

Miss Eva Morgan Sec-Treas.

TRUSTEE BOARD

H. Rogers

C. E. Lawrence

C. H. Cory

F. B. MacArthur

H. J. McKibbon

Miss E. Morgan

D. W. Friesen & Sons Ltd., Altona, Manitoba.

